Ashley Libby

EDU 221

Essential Belief Statement

I have two older brothers that were a big part of my life growing up. Having older brother’s means that their other guy friends would come over and they soon all adopted me and treated me like a sister. To this day, I still consider them as adoptive brothers. However, there were times when I was not allowed to play with them since they were so much older than I was. I had to result in playing by myself or walking to my friend’s house down the road. I was a big supporter of the imaginary games, just like everyone at my age. My favorite game to play was imaginary school. At first I was the student and I would assign myself little tasks to do but then I became the teacher to my class. I would assign homework and take “them” on field trips around my house. I usually would do these activities by myself but at times my younger cousin would join in when she visited. She is very close in age to me so our imaginations were at the same level. We would pretend that our room was a store and we would have every cousin and sibling visit our store and pretend to make purchases. Having the support of my family to let me imagine that I really was a teacher or shop owner, let me know that I can do whatever I set my mind to. I decided very young that I wanted to continue to be a teacher but to real students instead of my imaginary ones.

When I was in fifth grade I had one of the best teachers I have ever had throughout my whole school career. He taught Mathematics and Social Studies. He taught in a way that made the whole class fun and he would relate the problems to the real life situations we were dealing with back then. I found out that I understood the math problems and I was able to solve them without much trouble. I began to notice that it was fun for me every time I walked into his classroom. I told my teacher right away that I wanted to be just like him and teach math and he said that he already knew that I would be a great teacher. Having him give me his vote of confidence sealed the deal and ever since then, I knew what subject I was going to teach.

I learn using the clipboard and microscope style. I am very organized and very detailed in all the work I do so that I know exactly what I am answering. I make sure I absorb as much information about a certain topic as I can before finishing the assignment. This means that my methods and approaches will be very organized at first when I enter the classroom. Every student learns differently and for those that pay attention to the small detail, I will be able to come up with lessons that will be easy for them to solve. For those students that learn using the beach ball or puppy style, they do not like having such strict directions and they prefer to have many options and chose themselves. They prefer open-ended questions. I will have a harder time creating lessons for these students but I know that if I simply ask them how they like to learn, than they will tell me. I cannot expect to know exactly how each student learns without asking them and then I can plan my lessons accordingly. I can make sure that each student’s needs are met.

I am a talker and I talk fast. I have a hard time slowing down and making sure that everyone understand what I am saying and that they are retaining the information. Public speaking still makes me nervous because I am afraid of making a mistake in front of an audience. I expect to learn how to calmly and confidently stand up in front of an audience and efficiently teach them and know that they understand what I am teaching. I am afraid that there are going to be students that will not understand my lessons no matter how hard I try to teach to their specific learning style. I am afraid that a student is going to leave my class thinking that what they just learned is not important and has no meaning to their life. I expect to learn how to relate each lesson to the students and show them that even some of the simplest stuff, requires mathematics. I want to be able to explain and show my students that what they are learning now may not help them now or next month but it will help them the following year or even in a few years.

I want to understand how to get out of my comfort zone and teach using the other learning styles. I want to understand how incorporate all learning styles and create them into lesson plans for my students. I expect that this course will teach me how to plan ahead and be able to change a lesson on the drop of a dime if something does not work in my current lesson. I expect to learn how to always be in control of my classroom and what I want my students to learn that day.